

Asia-Pacific Forestry Week 2016

22-26 February 2016, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines



TEAKNET Partner Event:

"Global Significance of Teak- Present and Future"

Co-sponsored by IUFRO Teakwood Working Party (Div 5.06.02) and
FAO of the United Nations

Stream I : Pathways to Prosperity: Future Trade and Markets
Venue : Widus Hotel, Clark, Philippines
Date : 24 February 2016, Wednesday; Atlantic Room
Time : 15:30- 18:00 hrs

Event Summary

Chairperson: Dr. Michael Kleine

Dy. Executive Director
IUFRO HQ, Vienna, Austria

Experts from the Asia Pacific region and from overseas convened in a Partner Event at the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week, in Pampanga, Philippines, on 24 February 2016, to discuss the way forward in promoting teak (*Tectona grandis*) as one of the major high-value tropical timber species.

Dr. Michael Kleine in his welcome address highlighted the significance of convening a Partner Event on Teak under **Stream 1: Pathways to Prosperity: Future Trade and Markets**. The Session was attended by over 25 participants and five papers were presented. The highlights of the deliberations were as follows.

Current trends show that global demand for and importance of Teak will significantly increase as business opportunity for the private sector and as a means of income for smallholder farmers. Due to a significant decrease of log supply from natural teak forests reported from Myanmar, caused by overexploitation and land conversion to agriculture, interest and investments in establishing and managing teak plantations in many tropical countries has notably increased. As explained by Dr. P.K. Thulasidas, Coordinator of TEAKNET, the problems faced in future are two-fold: (a) the genetic diversity of natural Teak forest is gradually eroding due to forest destruction and (b) the genetic base of planted teak established in the past is rather narrow, thus may endanger its sustainability particularly in view of new challenges posed by climate change and extreme weather events. Production of genetically improved quality planting stock is a pre-requisite for increased productivity of teak plantations in future as highlighted by Dr. Doreen Goh from YSG Biotech, Malaysia. The availability of timber from selected teak clones which shows faster growth, greater heartwood percentage will provide best alternatives to overcoming market shortage arising from the ban of natural teak. Mr. Li Qiang from ITTO, Japan presented the scenario of global teak trade and market trend in view of log export ban by Myanmar and says that the future teak supply will be from plantations and there exists huge price difference between natural and plantation teak logs.

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Against this background a Global Teak Support Programme is currently being designed by IUFRO, TEAKNET and FAO with the objectives to conserve the existing natural teak resources for future genetic breeding programmes and planted teak for sustainable management was presented by Dr. Michael Kleine from IUFRO HQ, Vienna. Ms. M. P. Sreelakshmy from TEAKNET presented the services provided on a global scale with regard to the dissemination of teak related information on any aspect of teak cultivation and management and there is a general agreement that this network need to be further strengthened.

Following the presentations by the experts on various aspects of teak management, marketing and trade, participants of the partner event provided comments and suggestions for consideration in project design. Main points made include enhanced exchange of technical and operational experiences among teak managers and scientists through TEAKNET; further genetic research on gene markers for tracing teak genetic origins; careful design of equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms for creating genetically improved planting material; development of best practices of teak management and its dissemination to farmers through proper extension services. In an initial phase of the project supported by ITTO, a thorough analysis of past teak-related projects will be conducted by a group of scientists generating further input for this multi-year project. Overall, participants agreed that the joint initiative by IUFRO, TEAKNET and FAO will provide an important element in future efforts to conserve and sustainably manage the world's teak resources.

Picture Gallery



Opening of TEAKNET Partner Event



Discussion Forum



TEAKNET Exhibition booth at APFW venue